

SPRING BREAK EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN 37205

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MBA Hires New Varsity Football Coach

By Jeff Eberle
Sports Editor

Spending twenty minutes with MBA's new varsity football left no doubt in my mind that he is the right man for the job. Daniel McGugin has as much passion for MBA as anybody on campus. He has every intention of making MBA a state championship team once again.

JE: You are twenty-nine years old. What do you say to people who think you are too young to be the head football coach?

DM: I understand where they're coming from. This job is important to a lot of people. I have been fortunate enough to have the correct experience to be the head coach. This whole place is important. I have passion for the school as well as the job.

JE: How do you improve a team that was 4-6 a year ago so that it can contend for a state championship?

DM: We had a lot of bad breaks last year. We will have better luck this year. This program has had a lot of success. It's not about me, but about the whole program. We will get better every day. The goals will take care of themselves.

JE: What can you take from your two-year stint as head coach at FRA?

DM: You can learn anytime when you are in a leadership position. There are twice as many players here at MBA. We have the best coaching staff around. With this staff, the support of the administration, and the experience at FRA, I feel that I have been given the opportunity to lead this program to the top.

JE: You went down to the University of Miami for one year to be a graduate student and assistant under UM head coach Larry Coker. What did you learn?

DM: I was in an environment where the coaches lived football. I had a chance to be immersed in

that environment. I did not have a say in the game planning. I just tried to learn as much as possible. It was the best football experience I've ever had.

JE: What is your stance on high school recruiting?

DM: One has to properly market the school. There are a set of rules and a code of ethics. MBA has been doing it the right way for 140 years. MBA is a great school to sell. I want to sell it to the fullest within the rules of the TSSAA and the administration. I one-hundred percent agree with those rules.

JE: How do you compete with a BA or McCallie?

DM: We're not going to play anybody differently from the way we would any other team. We will play at full speed and do what we do regardless of the opponent. From 1997-

2005, we beat BA once every year. We have to earn it back.

JE: What will it be like to square off against one of your mentors, Ricky Bowers, on MBA's homecoming.

DM: I talk to him almost every day. He is a great coach and a great friend. He had a great impact on everybody at MBA. I hope to have that same impact. There's not a day that goes by where I do not think about that game. I have been affected by the four years I attended MBA more than any other place. That drives my work ethic. I believe in MBA, the mission, and the leadership.

JE: What college or pro coaches have you admired over the years?

DM: Larry Coker is a pro on and off the field. He's solid as a rock even through the turmoil he endured this past season. Vanderbilt head coach Bobby Johnson has the most detail-oriented staff. No one will out-prepare those guys. I also admire USC head coach Pete Carroll. It's obvious those players love playing for USC. He has such passion and enthusiasm. I want people to look at our players and say "those players love playing for MBA."

JE: Coach McGugin, thank you so much for your time and good luck to you next season.



New Head Coach Daniel McGugin

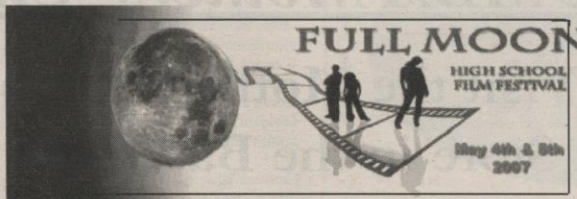
Full Moon Film Festival Visits MBA

By Matt Bellet
Staff Writer

For about a decade, David Tune, MBA class of '81, has been donating video production equipment to MBA. Sponsoring free concerts at the downtown library and having worked with Nashville public schools, Mr. Tune is an active philanthropist in the Nashville area. It was his vision for MBA to have a media program of some kind one day.

There is more filmmaking tradition at MBA than meets the eye. If you have been to the Tune Room below the theater, you have seen the great equipment students have used in the past to create films such as the Spaghetti Supper videos. Alumnus Tom Schulman has written movies such as *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* and *Dead Poets Society* and has won an Oscar for an original screenplay. In fact, the teacher who inspired Schulman to write *Dead Poets Society* is the teacher portrayed in the familiar statue facing the steps next to the gym. Tom Neff, another MBA alum, is the founder and CEO of the Documentary Channel, and his documentary *Red Grooms: Sunflower in a Hothouse* was

nominated for an Oscar. In addition, MBA students Michael Schuller (class of '06) and Max Webster (a current junior) interned at the Documentary Channel last summer.



The Full Moon Film Festival, begun by Tune to fulfill one of his lifelong dreams, is a brand new high school film festival open to any high school student who has an interest in filmmaking. The festival, with a couple of informational seminars in March and April, a premier night on Friday, May 4th, and an awards ceremony on the following night, is to be held in MBA's Paschall Theater.

Entrants can be teams of up to five students from schools in any city. The required topic is any event or person from American history, from 1770 to 1970. The

judges will also allow any kind of genre besides horror: comedy, music video, documentary, sports, science fiction, et cetera.

The festival has not neglected to offer great cash prizes for the best films. The winner will get \$2500, and his school will receive either \$500 or a video camera. Prizes will also be given to the second-place and third-place films. Of course, none of this would be possible without generous grants from Ingram Entertainment, Watkins' Film School, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, MBA, and Zendo Corporation, Tune's new aerial imaging company.

"It's not just for filmmakers, artists, or actors. The only requirement is that you have a story that's told through media technology," says Andrew Rozario of MBA's technology department. Several students at MBA and about 10 teams from various Nashville schools have signed up already. Mr. Rozario also adds some simple advice: "Go to the website, write a script, and start now."

The festival's mission involves "establishing Nashville as the national hub for high school filmmakers." This festival is truly unique because it attempts to create a continuum for student filmmakers to advance their passion. The website, fullmoonfilmfestival.com, provides a short "Filmmaking 101" course to teach students how to make their film, as well as ample information on how to submit a winning entry.

Since 2007 is the first year for the event, our junior school boys will be disappointed to learn that they are not allowed to enter this year, but the contest is likely to grow beyond high school in the future. It is not overly optimistic to hope that the Full Moon Film Festival will create a new Nashville tradition for local filmmakers of all ages.



THE BELL RINGER

Alec McGuffey
Editor-in-Chief

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Jeff Eberle and Andrew Gibbs, *Sports*
Jay Milam, *News*
Chase Altenbern and Scott Schwartz, *Features*
Kevin Thomas, *Entertainment*
Stockton Beveridge, *Business Manager*
Taylor Smyth, *Assistant Business Manager*

Mr. Anderson Gaither, Faculty Advisor
Mrs. Anne Christeson, Faculty Advisor

The Bell Ringer is a non-profit newspaper operated and published by and for the students of Montgomery Bell Academy, who are its intended audience. Views expressed in The Bell Ringer do not necessarily represent those held by the staff or school.

Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@mc.montgomerybell.com (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into 'First Class'). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of The Bell Ringer prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. Franklin Web Printing in Franklin, Tennessee, prints the paper.

Honey Bear Happenings



By Noura Ismail
Editor of Logos

Returning to a vastly renovated Upper School building, Harpeth Hall students celebrated the start of 2007 by once again keeping very busy. The disappearance of raging bulldozers and loud clatter every morning has brought a pleasant motivation amongst the girls, rendering an already highly productive semester quite peaceful.

Under the leadership of Coach Polly Linden, the swim team won its seventh straight girls Tennessee Swimming and Diving State High School Championship at the Centennial Sportplex. Harpeth Hall garnered 309 points, giving us 102 points more than runner-up Girls Preparatory School of Chattanooga. Contributing to this championship were such highlights as the team winning both the 200- and 400-yard freestyle relay as well as taking home the bronze and gold in 100 backstroke.

In clubs, the Mock Trial Silver Team placed 1st in Davidson County. With this achievement, it will be advancing to compete in the State Competition on March 23. Twenty Science Olympiad competitors also took part in a head-to-head regional competition with twelve other schools in February, eventually bringing home the 3rd place trophy

from MTSU. In total, the girls came home with 18 medals in events ranging from epidemiology to geology.

Theatrically, Playmakers recently presented *Almost, Maine*, a wonderful romantic comedy about several residents of a small, mythical town in far northern Maine who each carry entertaining stories about falling in and out of love. The thespians are now busy preparing for their production of *One Acts*. In celebrating their 30th reunion, the Dance Company is also hitting the stage for its spring Dance Concert, featuring an eclectic mix of over twenty modern, jazz, ballet, tap, and hip hop pieces. As part of the festivities, former choreographers and dancers have been specially invited to attend and re-live the arts at Harpeth Hall.

By teaming up with MBA in the Invisible Children project, the Spirit of Service Committee has taken special efforts this semester to raise awareness of the struggles in Africa. After motivational talks from several speakers, recent coin drives and bake sales have rallied the campus for the cause. A possible sale of bracelets in place of corsages for prom is also in negotiation, with profits marked for a particular school in Darfur.

Students have proven to have fended well this second semester. With Spring Break just days away, all are anxiously preparing for the final few weeks of a wonderful year.

The Bell Ringer Wins Awards

By Anderson Gaither
Newspaper Advisor

At the awards ceremony of the annual Tennessee High School Press Association (THSPA) convention held at Vanderbilt on March 6th, MBA was named several times for the quality of its newspaper, *The Bell Ringer*.

About eighty newspapers and their staffs were in the competition. To win an Honorable Mention is to be in the top ten percent.

Alec McGuffey won Honorable Mention for Best Editorial and another for Photography. Pat Killian won Honorable Mention for Best Feature Story, while Kevin Thomas won Honorable Mention for Best Review. Everitte Barbee and Chase Altenbern won Honorable Mention for Best Cartoon.

The Bell Ringer itself won a rating of Excellent, another award placing MBA in the top ten percent. Alec McGuffey is praised for his leadership and the quality of his work.

Unlike MBA, the greater number of high school newspapers in Tennessee is generated by a journalism class. The writers, the editors, and the advisors of such newspapers have considerable time and expertise to devote to composing their papers. Indeed, putting together a paper is all the journalism class does.

In concluding his evaluation of *The Bell Ringer*, leading up to the rating of Excellent, H.L. Hall, Director of the THSPA, writes, "You should take pride in how well you do considering you are an extracurricular, and you do not really have a class for the staff. It's admirable that you let anyone write. You really should be praised for accomplishing what you do." Alec McGuffey now receives his well-deserved praise.

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Sophomore News

By Fadi Pulous
Staff Writer

The sophomore class is looking forward to a big spring season, both athletically and academically. As we round into the final quarter, everyone is eager for not only spring break, but summer as well.

Spring sports coming up are soccer, track, and tennis. The soccer program is booming with sophomore participation at both varsity and junior varsity. Representing the sophomore class on the varsity team are, but not limited to, Houston Oldham, Robbie Alsentzer, Max Jarrell, and Brandon Dockery. On the JV squad the sophomore class is represented by several sophomores, including Will Overton, Reed Stanberry, Will Andrews, Logan Lechleiter, Ian Preston, JB Hardin, Robert McNeilly, and this very reporter. The soccer teams are looking forward to a lot of success.

In other news, a hoard of sophomores, led by Baker Mulherin, Leland Howe, and many more, looks forward to a promising track season. On the tennis squad Richard Brunsting and Chris Anderson are enjoying their second year of varsity tennis as they try to help the tennis team capture a state title. Finally, congratulations to the sophomores, Bailey

Brandon, Crawford Standard, and Allen Miller, on the hockey team for finishing a strong hockey season.

Academically, the class is eager to finish this final week and enjoy a much-deserved Spring Break. Furthermore, for the past couple of weeks we have been in review classes readying for the national language tests. Everyone is sure to perform well on these national exams.

With courses getting tougher, everyone is frantic in studying for upcoming tests. Brian Swenson claims, "I didn't understand anything we did today in chemistry." I'm sure Brian will have a great time studying for Commander Carr's Honors Chemistry test this Thursday, a great gift right before Spring Break. Not everyone is as pessimistic about school as Brian, though, for Michael Nunan turned in his research paper proudly and is expecting his rewards. One of the gratifications of spending so much time writing the term papers is thinking of the teachers grading the papers while we are in sloth mode during the break.

In summation, the sophomores are looking forward to their well-earned Spring Break, though everyone does appreciate the gravity of the upcoming final quarter.

Junior Jargon

By Ian Snyder
Staff Writer

The junior class is in full swing trying to finish out the third quarter of this year. With the conclusion of winter sports and the beginning of spring sports, there is much for reflection and much to anticipate.

The basketball team concluded its season in the state tournament with a loss to JPII. Despite this disappointment the juniors on the team, such as Preston Bailey, William Davis, Alfonza Knight, and Carlton Baker, gained great experience over the course of the season. When asked what his expectations are for next season, Alfonza Knight replied, "Domination." The hockey team also suffered an early loss in the state tournament despite the efforts of juniors such as Chris Fike, Rob Broadhurst, and Clay Christain.

Junior debaters have been having a successful semester as well. John Moynihan (extemporaneous speaking), Max Webster (extemporaneous speaking), and Corey Metzman (Lincoln-Douglas debate) have all qualified for the National Forensic League national tournament, with Max and Corey taking first place in their district qualifiers and John taking second in his qualifier.

The football program has already begun training under the direction of its new head coach, Daniel McGugin. Juniors Trip DeMoss, Austin Bennett, and Nathan Wade are all participating in spring workouts each day. Preston Bailey expressed his opinion on the new coach: "I think Coach McGugin is going to advance

our program to an even higher level, and this is a welcome change that our school needs."

The juniors are also excited about seeing all the hard work of raising money over the past three years finally pay off for the upcoming Prom. Prom is on April 21, so now is the time to start thinking about that special someone you want to take. The theme for Prom this year is *Vegas*. Mr. Morrison has said that within the heavily-decorated theater there will be fluorescent paint that will be activated by black lights and possibly a "Welcome to Vegas" neon sign. I think it is safe to say this Prom is going to be a blast.

But before Prom there is the much-anticipated week-long break commonly referred to as Spring Break. It's not as if students have been counting down exactly how many school days until we are free or anything. The junior class is going to spread out to many different locations this Spring Break.

One of the most popular locations is the Turks and Caicos Islands, where juniors such as Robert Rolfe, Preston Bailey, David Davies, and Carl Grote all plan to have some fun. Another hot spot this Spring Break is the always popular Florida. Whether it's Destin, Panama City, or Tampa, many juniors are planning to visit the sunny beaches of Florida.

The juniors are looking forward to a great vacation and some exciting upcoming events in the rest of this school year. We just wonder when time for academics can be found among all our other interests.

New English Courses

By Pat Killian
Staff Writer

The second semester is well underway, and while these last few months may mark the conclusion of most classes, for senior English courses the second semester is a new beginning. For the first time ever, English IV students have been offered Senior Colloquia, seminar-style classes, to replace the normal English courses of the second semester.

The Senior Colloquia mark a serious divergence from MBA's strictly traditional curriculum. These courses cover the normal English IV material for the first semester, but in the latter half of the year the class focuses on specific literary themes: Philosophy, Southern literature, or Latin American "Boom" fiction. The introduction of these unique classes shows a growing flexibility in, though certainly not a loss of, Montgomery Bell's deep-rooted ideals as an institution. Reflected here is recognition of the changes in education and a desire to prepare the 21st-century student to the best of the school's ability.

The English Department cites three reasons for the introduction of the Senior Colloquia. First, the department hopes the new classes will combat Senior Slide. The interesting new material in the second semester will, in theory, keep the seniors grounded in the classroom for the few remaining weeks until graduation.

Second, the thematic literature broadens the diversity of the students' reading and introduces them to more facets

of the world of literature than do normal English courses. This purpose ties in with the third and final plan: to prepare the seniors for ultra-specific college English courses.

Most colleges offer a wide range of such themed seminars, and these courses at MBA will help students find their interests in the enormous world of literature. Upon examining these intentions, one finds that MBA has not utterly diverged from its core principles but has simply found new, more universal means of achieving its "Preparatory School" promise.

Thus far, the colloquia are a success. Mr. Moxley, Dr. Batten, and Dr. Kinch are all thoroughly enjoying their new classes. The teachers feel that the seniors have taken to the classes well and are enjoying themselves. Mr. Moxley commented on the fresh experience, saying, "As an old teacher, it's really rejuvenating for me... Reminds me what it's like to be new at something."

Jackson Bull, in Dr. Batten's Philosophy and Literature class, said, "The Philosophy class has sparked a new intellectual curiosity for questioning the way modern society operates. I find the material much more fascinating than much of the literature we have read in previous English courses."

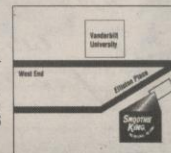
When asked which colloquium he would recommend to future seniors, Dr. Batten could not decide. He remarks, "I'd love to sit in on the other classes as well. All the topics are just so fascinating."

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MBA Plans Long Mountain Observatory

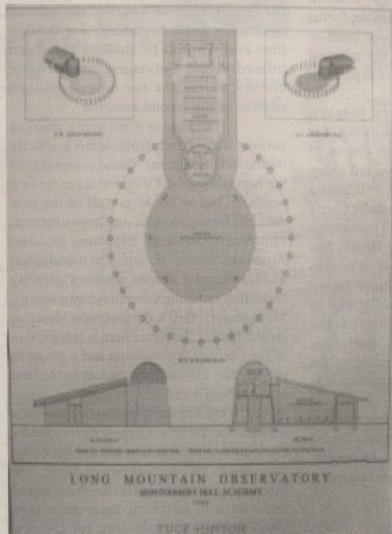
By Will Henry
Staff Writer

In recent months MBA has been working tirelessly to finish the plans for an observatory to be built on Long Mountain outside McMinnville, on property given to the school by generous alumni. Construction is set to begin soon and will take approximately a year to complete.

At this property a retreat is going to be built so that students will be able to stay there for days at a time. Not only will it house an observatory, but it will contain a classroom and computers to facilitate the observation. It primarily will be used by the astronomy class and club but will also be open to all interested students. The funding for this project has come from a Ford Foundation grant and several private donors.

When most people think of using telescopes, they think of buying a telescope that is portable that they can set up out behind their house on a clear night and get a closer look at the moon or maybe a glimpse of Venus and Jupiter. For the observatory, the telescopes will be of a much higher quality. Thanks to a local lawyer and amateur astronomer, Mark Manner, MBA has been able to get three high-quality telescopes. He is a good friend of David Bohman, the project manager of the Long Mountain Observatory. MBA's Dr. Clark says, "I will consider myself very fortunate if I ever understand as much about telescopes as

David does." At the observatory, there will be two telescopes: a 400 mm aperture



Plans for the Long Mountain Observatory

Ritchey-Chretien reflecting telescope made by RC Optical Systems on a Software Bisque Paramount ME mount, primarily for deep sky imaging, and 160 mm aperture apochromatic refractor made by Telescope Engineering

Company (TEC) on an Astrophysics mount primarily for planetary, solar, and lunar use.

The first telescope is no ordinary "backyard" telescope. On the back end, a high-quality camera will be hooked up, and there will be no place for one to look into. Looking into such a telescope would not be practical, because one would not be able to see much anyway, and it takes the telescope a long time to get its images. One galaxy took Mr. Manner's telescope nine hundred and sixty minutes to obtain a clear image of it. This type of telescope is hooked up to the internet and is controlled remotely. It can be controlled by computer, so it will be able to be viewed from both MBA and the observatory. It is directed at something in space for long periods of time as it takes in the light to formulate the image.

The second telescope is one that is actually looked into by the observer. It will be arriving in a few weeks and will be set up on campus until the observatory is finished.

But this telescope will not be the only one on campus. A Haystack Observatory "Small Radio Telescope" is being permanently put on campus, probably on the roof of the Ingram Science Building. At least that is the most desirable location, but it will either need a lot of weight to anchor it down or it will have to be tied into the support beams. Both of the options are plausible and will take some work, but it is still uncertain that it will be on the roof. This type of telescope uses radio waves that are not affected by sunlight and can pass through clouds, so that students will be able to use it during the day. Regarding his working on this project, Mark Manner says, "It's great to work with a school like MBA that has the resources and the vision to set up an observatory like this one."

This observatory with such high quality telescopes is a big step up in the astronomy program at MBA. Students will have easy access both on campus and at the observatory to the "real deal" of telescopes that will help them in their studies of space. Head of the Astronomy Club, Dr. Clark says, "I am really excited about this. It's an incredible opportunity we have as a high school to get a telescope of this high quality. I'm really looking forward to using it."

Mr. Chenery says that it will be an "exciting and fun time for students." This observatory will be a great experience for students who are interested in astronomy or for those who just want to take a closer look at Saturn and the moon.

Davis Grants Benefit MBA Community

By Brian Swenson
Staff Writer

Your teachers always ask what you do during the summer, but have you ever wondered what many of your teachers do during their summer? Some of them work on special projects to enhance their teaching skills and the general knowledge of their respective departments for the benefit of the school.

The Joe C. Davis Foundation makes many of their efforts possible by giving them monetary grants to travel around the world, write new textbooks, and revise the MBA curriculum. The Davis Foundation allows teachers to choose their own budget for trips of the teacher's own choosing. The Davis Grants provide finances for teachers in three areas: teacher award grants, departmental grants, and interdisciplinary grants.

The teacher award grants are afforded to promote the skills of teachers because of their excellence in education and contributions to the school. Some of the recipients last year were as follows: Dr. Shackleford for a math contest, Mrs. Christeson for a study of Telemachus and the role of a mentor, Mr. Herring for a trip to Russia, and Mr. Gaither and Dr. Seay for work on a new Latin II textbook.

Dr. Shackleford's Davis Grant has recently been used for sponsoring the first MBA Invitational Math Contest for 61 fifth- and sixth-grade students from the Nashville area with a goal of attracting prospective students for MBA. He held the contest on Saturday, March 10. It was a complete success, thus fulfilling yet another Davis Grant objective.

The teacher award grants given this year are as follows: Mr. Kelly for an Irish Literature study and Dr. Bailey and Mr. Sharbel for a Living History Program.

The departmental grants are allotted to promote new ideas and improvements within a certain department. Some teachers, along with their departments, who received departmental grants last year were as follows: Mr. Giffen in College Counseling for a conference and Mr. Hiatt and Dr. Gaffney in Technology. The departmental grants recently approved this year are as follows: Mr. Gaither and Dr. Seay in Foreign Language to continue writing a Latin II textbook, Mr. Pruitt in Science to walk on the Appalachian Trail, and Mr. Frost and Miss Hollifield in Fine Arts for a visual art library.

Interdisciplinary grants are designated to improve further teacher skills and the school by having teachers from different departments join together in the same project. The interdisciplinary grants given last year were for a media project by Ms. Tilley, Mrs. Bramwell, and Mr. Thurmond and a PSAT study by Mrs. Mattison, Dr. Shackleford, and Mrs. Palmore. Some of the recently-approved grants this year are as follows: honor system examination by Commander Carr and Mr.

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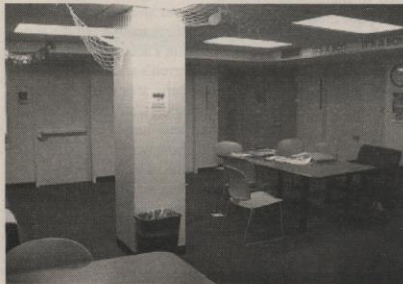


Seniors List Demands for New Senior Room

Gentry Smith
Staff Writer and Designer

As the second semester debuted, the seniors were transitioned from their fabulously cozy room in the Carter Building to their new "Senior Room." We felt the way

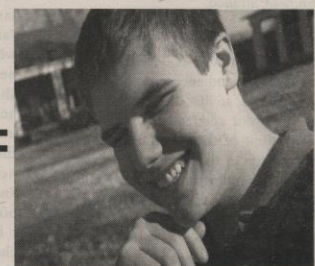
been in a beautiful, well-lit, centrally-located, tri-laterally fenestrated space. We have been in close proximity to the curriculum and college counselors for our academic needs, and, perhaps more important, we have been within shouting distance of the "guidance" office for our psychological needs. Now,



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Now, that is one happy guy!

an old dog must feel upon being shoed away from the good sofa. Sure, we will be graduating soon to new campuses, but, hey, we still have feelings.

The general consensus among the class of 2007 is that this new room is tantamount to a dungeon. All year we have

though, we have been thrown into the lower depths of the Ball Building, as if into some expiatory Underworld.

We are adaptable, though, and some design enhancements and a few other additions can certainly make a difference. After creating several "demand lists," all of

which were subsequently rejected, I gathered an official poll of what is most needed/wanted in the room. The following top 25 are in order from the most votes received to the least received:

1. Female Presence (115 votes)
2. New Room (10 votes)
3. Comfy Chairs (6 votes)
4. Television with Dolby Digital Surround Sound. (5 votes)
5. Ping Pong Table (4 votes)
6. Slip and Slide down the stairs and through the hall. (2 votes)
7. Arcade-Style Pac-Man game.

12. Pacman Jones poster on Coach Mathew's door.
13. P-Slice painted green for St. Patrick's Day.
14. Privilege to the coke machine down there.
15. Water slide
16. A Goat for dairy products.
17. Rogaine for Chet.
18. DZ, The Discovery Zone.
19. Bumper Cars
20. Bowling Alley
21. Billiards
22. Mini-Fridge
23. Basketball Court

8. Hot Tub
9. Aquarium
10. Trampoline
11. Punching bag

24. Hammock
25. Playa Del Carmen

Spring Break Shenanigans

By Jesse Colton and
Alec McGuffey

Spring Break of the senior year is always a legendary event, and this year the entertainment expectations are high. Though the locations of travel are broad, the majority of seniors are going to Mexico for some fun in the sun.

Senior Mike Herron explained, "I've already set out my curfew and have a detailed agenda of entirely legal activities." Upon further inquiry, Mike continued, "Yes, I have brought quite a collection of board games, and Douglass has challenged me to a chess tournament."

Senior Stephen Dolan also chimed in, "Well, I certainly won't be neglecting my lacrosse workouts, and I plan on jogging every morning at about 5 a.m., giving me my doctor-recommended 8.3 hours of sleep per night with my strict curfew."

Senior Dylan Burroughs was as giddy as a school-boy when questioned about his Spring Break plans: "I have

already packed my fanny pack and knapsack, and they are stocked full of disposable cameras and sunscreen. I'm bringing SPF 45, of course, but mainly for Chet."

Senior Patrick McGinn chuckled quite gaily at my inquiries, expressing his thoughts on the topic of the Mexico Spring Break trip, "Though my other compatriots may be enjoying themselves with Backgammon and other luxuries, I plan on indulging in scholarly conversations with the locals. I have been staying after school to practice Spanish with Dr. Springer and feel very intellectually capable."

Senior Harlan Dodson responded, "Hark, my intellectual embellishments will remain on campus, though I hope to enjoy some cricket and have brought my hockey pads just in case."

Indeed, these Montgomery Bell seniors are on the verge of challenging their personal dignity and honor through such questionable frivolities. Let us all hope that the underclassmen will steer clear of such shenanigan-esque activities.



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Nothing Serious Offers Serious Entertainment

By Will Orman
Staff Writer

The MBA Players had another remarkable success with Luigi Pirandello's *Nothing Serious*, mostly translated by MBA's own polyglot, Dr. Gaffney himself, directed by Dr. Fuller, and starring familiar crowd favorites such as Becca Hill as Gasparina Torretta, Chase Altenbern as Memmo Speranza, and Alex Martin as Signor Barranco.

The most unique aspect of the production was Dr. Fuller's use of the theatre-in-the-round technique, a layout in which the audience surrounds the actors on all sides, so that different angles occur in different scenes, depending on the placement of the furniture. Around the outer edge of the set were four flats that would either turn around or have mirrors to cover up certain colors or reveal others, to denote the changing of seasons. This subtle but effective use of surroundings made the set impressive while not overbearing, which would especially be

problematic if any furniture were to block the audience.

All of the actors delivered superb performances, as well. Becca, as Gasparina, underwent an impressive transformation from humble landlady to radiant young woman living on her own, and she developed her features to match. In the first act, she kept her voice low and stayed silent often, but as her character changed her life, she tweaked her mannerisms and became

more jovial, utilizing her perfect laugh for much of the last two acts.

Chase, as Memmo, visibly experienced an emotional crash and carried out an act of utter desperation, as he first thought himself to be a mastermind of humor when he promised to marry Gasparina, but then broke down when he couldn't get an ex-fiancée to love him again. Through his seeking solace in Gasparina, he fell in love with his own wife, and then resolved to return to marry her in the final act.

Alex, as Signor Barranco, played the voice of reason in the

first two acts and planned to marry Gasparina in the final act, but then he was snubbed as Gasparina picked her husband, Memmo, over Barranco. The characters all showed impressive capacity for emotion, as Chase managed to break down and cry on stage, Becca commanded her laughter or lack thereof, and Alex expressed a variety of tones, whether disciplinary or heartbroken.

The rest of the cast, including Mary Tek, Garrett Anglin, Everitte Barbee, Bennett Davidson, Jesse Colton, and Will Holt, rounded out the play nicely, with strong performances from all of the above, especially Everitte's accurate portrayal of a stroke victim, Garrett's and Bennett's antics, Mary's sympathetic treatment of Becca's Gasparina throughout, and Jesse's frequent condescension and humor in the first act. MBA's next show will have difficulty topping this one, with so many of our excellent actors leaving for college after this year and because of the unique style of the production of *Nothing Serious*, but I look forward to what comes next.



MBA Math Invitational Draws Crowds

By Pat Killian
Staff Writer

MBA's parking lots were crowded yet again last Saturday, March 10—this time for the MBA Math Invitational. The competition, organized by Dr. Jim Shackelford, is brand new to MBA and was open to fifth- and sixth-graders from schools all around Nashville.

Let's lay out some numbers. Sixty-one students from twenty-two schools competed in the invitational. The students had to complete a twenty-six question test,

written by Dr. Shackelford and Mrs. Qian, in forty-five minutes (which some accomplished easily). Of the top twenty-five scorers (which includes a few girls), six, including the overall winner, have already committed to MBA, and a few others may join them before long. At the end of the day, two scholarships to MBA's summer science camp were given, one to the overall winner and the other to the winner of a drawing.

The winning individual was Oak Hill's Jonathon Siktberg, a future member of the MBA Class of 2013, who earned a

perfect score. The top three schools were (from first to third) Oak Hill, Overbrook, and Grassland.

Dr. Shackelford considers the Invitational a great success, saying "It was a big event," that produced great interest in the community and garnered an impressive turnout. Most importantly, the competition was great public relations for MBA with the community; it brought younger students onto the campus; it got the surrounding community involved with MBA. In fact, the Invitational had such a positive outcome that the school is planning to make it an annual event.

Dr. Shackelford would like to express his appreciation for all of the help he received in making the first MBA Math Invitational the success it was, and he especially thanks the sophomores Brian Swenson and Rahul Sahstry, who helped grade tests, and Chunbum Park, who put together an amazing slide show for the competitors to enjoy after the test was over. Through their help, these three exemplified the goal of the Invitational: for MBA to connect with the Nashville community. Let us hope in the future more volunteers continue to make this event such a great success.

Davis Grants

Continued from page 4

Russell and a statistical analysis of testing by Mrs. Mattison and Dr. Shackelford.

Essentially, these grants keep the teachers and administration filled with fresh ideas to extend the school's excellence in instruction, curriculum, and departmental interaction. The Davis Foundation has generously granted quite a bit of money each year and the money has been well spent.

Congratulations to the New Cum Laude Inductees!

Chase Altenbern, Daniel Arteaga, Ben Gambill ('63), Stockton Beveridge, Austin, Branstetter, Harrison Brown, Curtis Lovelace, Donesh Ferdowsi, Alec Martin, Chet Gormley, Corey Metzman, Alec McGuffey, John Moynihan, Prabodh Mishra, Taylor Smyth, Nathan Sears, and Max Webster



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Baseball Team Has High Hopes

By Scott Schwartz and Johnny Mishu
Sports Editor and Staff Writer

After a scrimmage or an intense practice, the MBA baseball coaches summarize the day on the diamond with a team meeting. These meetings, regardless of the specifics, always culminate into the message that the coaches preached during the off-season: we have the discipline, talent, and leadership to win the state championship.

This year's MBA baseball team consists of a strong blend of veteran leadership and youth. With the four injury-free seniors on the team, Todd Miller, Matthew Kimball, Scott Schwartz, and Morgan Gregory, all planning to play baseball at the college level, they certainly lead by example. The fifth senior on the team is Andrew Triggs, a star pitcher on last year's team who unfortunately underwent off-season elbow surgery, forcing him to sit out his senior year. He couldn't be more positive and enthusiastic, though, saying, "I'm just happy to be a part of this team. We have a great group of guys, and I'm not going to let an injury get in the way of my senior season."

Though his veteran presence will be missed, the talented underclassmen have stepped up to contribute significantly to the team. Juniors Frank Adelman, Tee Stumb, Andrew Harris, Will Adams, and Jon Eisen round out a strong infield, while junior Jas Rader and sophomore Spencer Wise cover tremendous ground in the outfield. Junior Andy McLaughlin and sophomore

Hooper Paty work well behind the plate, and juniors Wilson Nealy, Eric Vasilevskis, and Johnny Mishu, along with freshman Luke Colbert, provide depth in the big red pitching staff.

On offense, even though senior Morgan Gregory and junior Frank Adelman consistently hit for power, the Big Red focuses on using speed and making consistent groundball/line-drive contact at the plate. Coach Wims and Coach Anderson encourage this small-ball style offense. Every day in practice, we do bunting drills, base running drills, and take groundball-specific

batting practice. "We hit the best as a team when we put the ball on the ground and put pressure on the defense with our speed," says Jas Rader, who plans to be one of the team's leading base-stealers. Although a lack of power makes it harder to jump back into games, our grind-it-out approach of manufacturing runs and winning every inning will put us in a position to win many games.

The pitching staff is loaded with outstanding talent and leadership. Barring injuries, our pitching should keep all games within reach. Senior right-handed pitcher Todd Miller, who has committed to pitch at Notre Dame, headlines the deep rotation. Senior Scott Schwartz adds another consistent arm to the rotation, and junior left-handed pitcher/first baseman Frank Adelman should also contribute valuable innings off the hill. There is a wealth of

young talent on the team this year. Luke Colbert, the only freshman on the varsity team, is developing to become a nice talent and will be a leader of the team in a couple of years. If our starting and middle-relief pitchers can last through the 5th and 6th innings, Matthew Kimball, a Brown University commit, will shut the door on opposition as the closer.

The baseball team has worked hard this off-season. Coach Wims, Coach Anderson, and Coach Martin have prepared us to have a successful season. The team travels to Phoenix, Arizona over Spring Break to play tough competition from out west and then returns to open up region play when school resumes. "With Coach Wims and Coach Anderson at the helm," says junior Tee Stumb, "anything can happen."

Despite the cold weather and even snowstorms, which necessitated the use of orange lacrosse balls, the team looked strong in its first scrimmages. Senior goalie and captain Carver Morgan comments, "I think we looked really good. We definitely have a great base to improve upon now."

The team is returning almost all of its high-scoring offense of last year's state championship team. The young defense looked promising in Ohio and will be grounded by senior Garrett Ramsey and goalie Carver Morgan. Coaches John Harvey and Chris Smith took a short roster with the idea of using all of the players in specific roles that would produce another state title.

The senior class returns All-State and All-American attackman Chris Cahill and All-State middies Rob Phipps and face-off man Wes McKeithan. All-State attackman Sloan Sanders and middies Swan Burrus, Chase Taylor, and Mike Byrge highlight the junior class. The team is focused on the ultimate goal of a state title, and Morgan says, "We have a long way to get [there]...but we definitely have all the guys we need to get it done."

The team has great leadership from the seniors, especially captains Rob Phipps, Chris Cahill, and Carver Morgan, who adds, "I think our success will come from how hard we are willing to work and our closeness as a team. We have a great group of seniors this year, and if we [the seniors] can lead with humility and by example, we should definitely be able to accomplish our goal."

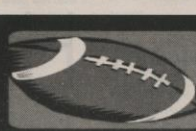
Please come out and support the hard-hitting, fast-paced, and high-scoring game of lacrosse, MBA style.

Lacrosse Preview

By Jay Milam
News Editor

The MBA Lacrosse team started its road to the state championship in Cincinnati, winning 3 out of 4 games in a preseason tournament which included teams from Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee. After losing the first game 6-1, the team bounced back and beat all other teams with a combined score of 46-7.

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Varsity Soccer Preview

By Andrew Gibbs
Sports Editor

After a surprising run at the state title last year, the Big Red Soccer team looks to finish the job this year. The 2006 squad reformed the expectations of the soccer program; thus, anything less than the title "state champions" will be considered a disappointment and failure. It is apparent that the coaching staff of veteran John Lanier and fiery Giles Cheevers will not tolerate anything less than the work ethic, sacrifice, and determination of a true champion. The team's desire to win is reflected in the conditioning, practice, and play.

After losing only four seniors, the 2007 squad is full of experience. However, along with that comes the challenge of being a favorite. Junior forward Alexander Darsinos says of the challenges which come with being the frontrunner, "We have to forget about it. We just have to go out there and play with the attitude that we have something to prove every time we come on the field."

Despite being favorites in the region, this team will play with the same intensity as an underdog. Each game will be treated as a last hope of survival. Every player will push himself and his teammates not only to win, but improve from each past performance.

The 2007 starting eleven is highlighted by some of the best players the school has ever seen take the field. Trey McMinn is a dominant goalkeeper and is

The heart and soul of the team can be found in the midfield. Senior Zach Richardson loves the game more than the



Drew takes the shot

expected to keep a clean sheet of shutouts all year. In front of him, Greg Harbison controls the defense from the center back position. Harbison's physical play leaves opposing forwards on their backs crying for fouls in frustration.

all of the opponents the Big Red will face this year combined. His leadership and play can only be described with one word, beautiful. Richardson commands the attack and finds dashing players with ease.

Among those Zach will find open is Darsinos. Alexander is flat out the most talented player on the field every game. He

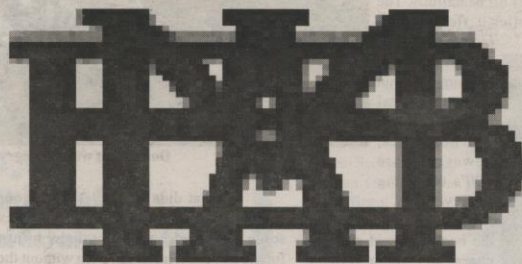
consistently makes the best defenders stumble, trip, fall, and appear as if they have never played before. As he dribbles down the field, it appears that the ball doesn't leave his foot until he decides to rip a powerful, blazing shot. Alex only needs a few inches to get a shot off and is in shooting range as soon as he steps onto the field. Rounding up the squad is a group of hard working, tough players who are all willing to do whatever it takes to win.

The Big Red's pursuit of a championship began with an impressive 3-0 blasting of a highly ranked Hendersonville squad. The huge group of students that came out to see the fireworks were rewarded and greatly appreciated by the team. Richardson is excited about the dedication of the fans. He says, "I can't wait to come out on the field under the lights for Senior Night to play Father Ryan and see a bowl of fans around the field. It will be special."

Although it seems everything is in place for a run at the championship, the coaches and players are not leaving anything to chance. When asked what it will take for this team to be state champion, Coach Cheevers quickly responds, "Self belief. We'll have to want it more than anything...so bad that it hurts."

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MBA Students Pick Their Favorite TV Shows

By Patrick Mehta
Staff Writer

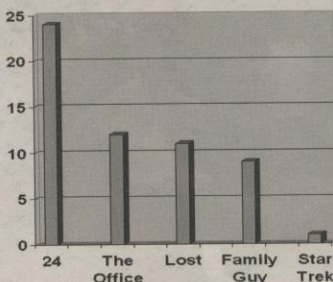
Polls should be objective and statistically sound. Dr. Shackleford would most likely have designed a different method of collecting and measuring the data. In fact, many readers may say that this TV poll was rigged because *24* received 24 votes, 100 percent. These skeptics could be right. Not having done this poll personally, this reporter really is clueless about the technique involved.

Also, some shows in this poll weren't accurately represented, like *Deal or No Deal*. Great show, really, but you have to watch it with the right perspective. Picture this, there is a squirrel-faced contestant on the show with two cases left, and he has a choice to open the last case, which could have \$1 or \$1,000,000, and a choice to take the money from the bank, which is a guaranteed \$640,000. The contestant is confident in the lucky #15 case he chose, so he opens the last case. He gets a dollar. The look is priceless, really something worth seeing.

In several episodes, the contestant, before picking a case, will recite his own clever chant like "Keep it low! Keep it low!" or "If I believe, then I will receive." And have you noticed that Howie Mandel doesn't like being close to the contestants

or their families? He always stands a safe four feet away. What a show!! But here almost a no show.

Several reality shows have maintained their well-deserved spots in this poll. *Rob and Big* can be a great hit when



Rob, a skinny Caucasian, and his hefty African-American friend, Big, try to skateboard for an entire episode. *American Idol* unfortunately received only two votes at MBA, but 37 million phone calls and text messages nationwide suggest something. Flavor Flav did get his show to reach a second season, and apparently cooking shows like *Iron Chef* and *Top Chef* have viewers.

Unquestionably some of the favorite shows of MBA students, and four of my 17 favorites were *24*, *The Office*, *House*, and *South Park*.

The Office almost collapsed when Dwight was fired in an episode; luckily Dwight later replaced Andy Bernard, a psycho that punches walls when he can't find his cell phone. *South Park* was probably in the top 10 because of the strong values it teaches. Thanks to the show "make love, not Warcraft," millions of viewers will think twice before playing a game that encourages keeping Bengay around in case you get carpal tunnel syndrome while using too many rapid fire manna spells.

House is an excellent show because of House. How many main characters would fake brain cancer to a Harvard medical group so they could get morphine injected into their head? *Grey's Anatomy* is an anomaly. Harrison Brown still maintains that *Desperate Housewives* is one of the best TV shows, but then again "Harrison...is...Harrison."

Thanks to MBA for confirming that *Seinfeld* is superior to *Friends* and that *Family Guy* is still a funny show. The

Colbert Report and *The Daily Show* tied for 17th, so I'll have to give Stephen Colbert the W.

TV Show Poll. Data gathered from among Seniors and Juniors (show- # of votes).

1. **24** 24 votes
2. *The Office*-12
3. *Lost*-11
4. *Family Guy*-9
5. *House*-8
6. *That 70s Show*-7
7. *Seinfeld*-7
8. *SportsCenter*-7
9. *South Park*-6
10. *Prison Break*-4
11. *Grey's Anatomy*-4
12. *Law and Order SVU*-4

Other shows students voted for include *Rob and Big*, *Scrubs*, *Entourage*, *Flavor of Love*, *Top Chef*, and *Antiques Roadshow*, just to give you an idea of MBA students' eclectic tastes.

Editor's Note: This poll was, in fact, rigged to ensure that *24* received 24 votes (in reality, it received 25, the overwhelming champion).

300: A Visceral and Visionary Experience

By Alec McGuffey
Editor-in-Chief

You have never seen anything like *300*, and it is safe to say that you probably never will. Forget everything you know about filmmaking up to this point, because this film breaks all the rules.

Director Zack Snyder, who also directed the vastly underrated *Dawn of the Dead* remake, employs a unique, heretofore never seen style of filmmaking to convey his and Frank Miller's vision. The closest a film has come to this is Frank Miller's *Sin City*, but even that can

you have to view it as a purely visceral experience. Sure, the actors pull off their macho one-liners well, and we feel for the soldiers giving their lives to save Sparta from the invading Persians, but *300*'s real thrills and pleasures come just by staring at the screen.

Snyder took the risk of using visual effects for a majority (I'd guess 90%) of the film, only breaking this pattern to film his actors and some minor setting pieces.

And it pays off beautifully. The vast armies, fleets, and landscapes are all gorgeous and pleasing to even the most critical eye.

The battles, however, are *300*'s crowning achievement.

Most filmmakers try every trick in the book to avoid showing characters being stabbed directly on camera, simply because it has always been difficult, if not impossible, to show a convincing

decapitation, dismemberment, or stabbing on screen. But thanks to Snyder's brilliant visual effects team, we are shown some of the most realistic battle sequences ever put to film; blades pierce and cut without end, and the blood flows...a lot. If you're

queasy, do NOT see this film—just a friendly suggestion.

backgrounds ever generated electronically and put to film.



Don't mess with an angry Spartan

What didn't work? There is one completely gratuitous and unnecessary sex scene that Snyder probably threw in just for the heck of it (after all, even without the sex, there's no way this film could ever have gotten a PG-13 rating from the MPAA).

Apart from that, however, I honestly can not think of another criticism that I have with *300*. Granted, anyone going into this film for its intellectual depth will probably leave disappointed. It is not that kind of film and it is not trying to be; it is what it is: two hours of bloody and gory battles set against some of the most striking

The heavy metal soundtrack and chanting choirs are constant and effectively amplify the pain of battle. They call out to the viewer and draw him into the intensity of everything happening on screen. Those rhythms are still pounding in my brain.

If I haven't yet convinced you to see *300*, think about it this way: any movie with a raging, 50-foot rhinoceros, a guy who decapitates people with claws, and a ten-foot tall giant who can get stabbed in the eye and keep on trucking is definitely worth seeing.



Don't underestimate the poofy hair

not compare to *300*, because *Sin City* was released in mostly black-and-white and utilized only a fraction of the jaw-dropping special effects seen in *300*.

Why is this film so visionary, you ask? Well, to really appreciate its grandeur,

Kevin's Spring Break Indie Movie Picks

By Kevin Thomas
Entertainment Editor

If you are like me and are tired of all the trash that Hollywood keeps throwing at us, then I would highly recommend seeing some of these independent movies during Spring Break. Not many of the actors or the directors are well-known, but this only adds to the magnificence of them. The acting and the directing are fantastic in every one of the films I am about to mention.

1. ***Ghost World***: This film follows Enid and Rebecca who have recently graduated from high school and who love to play practical and hurtful jokes on strangers. When one of their targets turns out to be Seymour, a lonely and reclusive middle-aged man, Enid begins to have a strange connection with him. She attempts to find a woman for him and fails, but he eventually finds someone through his advertisement in the newspaper. As the film progresses, Enid also begins to fall in love with Seymour, despite their drastic age difference. The acting is absolutely flawless in *Ghost World*, and the director, Terry Zwigoff, makes you pity these various characters by the end of the movie.

2. ***Magnolia***: Harboring a flawless soundtrack from Aimee Mann, Paul Thomas Anderson's masterpiece follows the lives of many different people whose lives all

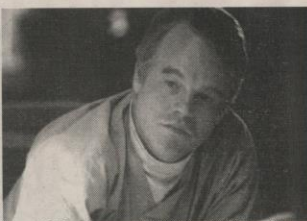
intertwine somewhere in the film. A major recurring theme in the movie is the regret that some of these characters feel for their actions in the past. Anderson was inspired by Robert Altman's *Short Cuts*, which is also a rich mosaic, in writing the screenplay for *Magnolia*, and there are many similarities between the two films. Although the movie is very long (188 minutes), it goes by very fast because it has such an engaging ensemble of characters. I would highly encourage all of you to see it.



Ghost World

3. ***Happiness***: This black comedy about a dysfunctional family in which each person has personal problems presents separate stories that are all connected in some fashion. The title is an ironic one because there is really no happiness between these people. In fact, the characters are constantly sad and are never content at any point in the film. Some of the stories in the movie include a psychiatrist who is also a rampant

pedophile, a prank-phone caller who is scared to talk to women, a poet whom lots of men want, and a woman who is unable to make a connection with anybody. The director Todd Solondz makes us feel sorry for a majority of the characters in their perpetual unhappiness. Despite all this mournfulness throughout the film, you cannot help but laugh at some of these people because their situations are so absurd and bizarre.



Philip Seymour Hoffman in *Magnolia*

4. ***In the Company of Men***: This film, directed by Neil LaBute, centers around two working-men who have been reassigned for six weeks to another branch of their corporation. One of the men, whose name is Chad, comes up with a plan in which they will find a defenseless woman in their new office, have romances with her on their own, and simultaneously dump her. Howard, who is Chad's weaker counterpart, is ready to go along with Chad's idiotic scheme, which he does. Unlike Chad, Howard starts to have real feelings for the woman they choose, who is deaf but is able to communicate with them through her ability to read lips. She is a beautiful young woman of whom Chad takes advantage, and her name is Christine. By the end of the movie, we want to punch Chad in the face for the way that he talks about her to Howard behind her back. The observer feels more sympathy for Howard because he actually likes Christine. *In the Company of Men* is most definitely a film worth seeing.

5. ***Little Miss Sunshine***: Nominated for three Academy Awards including best picture, this beautiful comedy about a family's journey from New Mexico to California features colorful characters, great



Little Miss Sunshine

Jackson Reflects on the 2007 Oscars

By Jackson Bull
Staff Writer

gave him a very warm and long overdue standing ovation.

One of the key moments in the 79th Annual Academy Awards was when Martin Scorsese finally won an Oscar for the magnificent directing of his most recent master-piece, *The Departed*.

If that was not enough, *The Departed* also won several other awards including Best Film Editing, Best Adapted Screenplay, not to mention Best Picture.

As Scorsese walked up to that stage in front of millions of viewers, the whole Staple Center audience



Alan Arkin

One of the most shocking awards, in my opinion, was when Alan Arkin received Best Supporting Actor for his role in *Little Miss Sunshine* instead of Djimon Hounsou in *Blood Diamond*. Alan Arkin's character dies (apologies to those who haven't seen it yet) right in the middle of *Little Miss Sunshine* and definitely does not convey as much emotion as Djimon Hounsou.

This year's Oscars was definitely one for the history books in terms of film, and until next year, enjoy the fantastic movies that are currently available.

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